

Mr. RUEGGER'S REPORT TO THE ICRC

No 773 of November 13, 1962

The International Committee of the Red Cross has held a plenary meeting to hear the report of its former President, Mr. Paul Ruegger, on the mission entrusted to him by the Committee. It has noted with satisfaction the atmosphere of confidence in which the Committee's envoy discussed matters with the acting Secretary-General of the United Nations, with members of his staff and with the representatives of the three Powers directly concerned in the Cuban question.

The good offices which the ICRC has considered lending to the United Nations, at Mr. Thant's request, in circumstances of exceptional gravity, were the subject of numerous discussions in New York. These enabled the United Nations to understand more precisely the contribution which the Geneva Committee could offer them, and the ICRC to appreciate more clearly the extent of the help which would be asked of it. The ICRC's rôle would consist essentially in appointing a team of inspectors who would operate under the authority of the United Nations, without the ICRC assuming responsibility for the action. The instructions which would be given to the inspectors by the United Nations would, in any case, conform to Red Cross principles. It was also agreed that eventual action by the ICRC would be based on previous consent being given by the three States concerned.

The methods of control have still to be clarified in the course of future discussions. The exchange of communications between the acting Secretary-General of the United Nations and the ICRC will be continued to this effect during the forthcoming days.

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In view of the considerable amount of material, the continuation of Mr. Henri Coursier's "Course of five lessons on the Geneva Conventions" has been postponed until the next number of our bulletin.

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